

SENATE BILL 1664
By Person

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to maximum weight standards for elementary and secondary school textbooks.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Backpacks of elementary and secondary school pupils often contain textbooks, binders, calculators, personal computers, lunches, a change of clothing, sports equipment, and more.

(2) Elementary and secondary school pupils are carrying backpacks weighing as much as forty (40) pounds.

(3) Chiropractors, physical therapists, and pediatricians are seeing an increased number of children for spinal column injuries, nontraumatic back pain, and significant postural changes from overloaded backpacks.

(4) Chiropractors and pediatricians recommend that backpacks not exceed more than fifteen percent (15%) of a pupil's body weight.

(5) In 1999, more than three thousand four hundred (3,400) pupils between five (5) and fourteen (14) years of age, inclusive, sought treatment in hospital emergency

rooms for injuries related to backpacks or book bags according to the United States consumer product safety commission.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 22, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-6-22___. On or before July 1, 2004, the state board of education shall adopt maximum weight standards for textbooks used by pupils in elementary and secondary schools. The weight standards shall take into consideration the health risks to pupils who transport textbooks to and from school each day.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.